

The Syria Report

Syria ranks fairly well in global competitiveness map

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Syria ranked 80 out of 131 economies in the world in terms of the competitiveness of its economy, according to the latest Global Competitiveness Report.

The GCR is an annual report by the World Economic Forum and ranks countries according to their competitiveness, i.e. "the set of institutions, policies, and factors that determine the level of productivity of a country".

Syria is ranked for the first time in this report although its presence follows its inclusion in a regional report published earlier this year, *The Arab World Competitiveness Report*.

The report includes a Global Competitiveness Index, which provides indices and rankings on a whole set of areas. Syria ranks extremely well in a number of factors: it is first in the world for the Business Cost of crime and violence, third for the Business Cost of Terrorism and seventh for Organized Crime. It ranks poorly in "Financial market sophistication" (125), "Laws relating to Information and Communication Technology" (128), in "Nature of competitive advantage" (116) or "Prevalence of foreign ownership" (128).

For the first time, the GCR also publishes a Business Competitiveness Index, which focuses on the microeconomic aspect of competitiveness, contrarily to the Global Competitiveness Index, which focuses on the macroeconomic aspect.

Syria is also included in the BCI and ranks 86 out of 127 countries. The index comprises two sub-indices, the "Sophistication of company operations and strategy", in which Syria ranks 89 and the "Quality of the national business environment", in which Syria ranks 74.

The most competitive country in the world, according to GCR is the United States, followed by Switzerland and Denmark. The least competitive is Chad. In the Arab World, Algeria and Libya rank worse than Syria while Kuwait ranks first at 30, followed by Qatar, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia.

Syria's Global Competitiveness Index

	Rank *	Score **
Global Competitiveness Index 2007-2008	80	3.91
Global Competitiveness Index 2006-2007 (out of 122)	n.a.	n.a.
Subindex A: Basic requirements	71	4.26
1st pillar: Institutions	61	3.99
2nd pillar: Infrastructure	74	3.19
3rd pillar: Macroeconomic stability	98	4.45
4th pillar: Health and primary education	69	5.42
Subindex B: Efficiency enhancers	100	3.37
5th pillar: Higher education and training	104	3.13
6th pillar: Goods market efficiency	81	3.95
7th pillar: Labor market efficiency	117	3.72
8th pillar: Financial market sophistication	116	3.44
9th pillar: Technological readiness	109	2.50
10th pillar: Market size	62	3.50
Subindex C: Innovation and sophistication factors	82	3.44
11th pillar: Business sophistication	72	4.00
12th pillar: Innovation	93	2.88

*Out of 131 countries/economies

**Out of 7